

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 18 and 21-23 are pending. Claims 4-17 are canceled. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. The added features of independent claim 1 are fully supported by Applicant's Figs. 6A and 6B, for example. No new matter is added.

Claims 1, 2 and 21-23 continue to read on the elected group. Rejoinder is requested for claim 18 when independent claim 1 is allowed.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP-A-2001-237073 to Oshita in view of JP-A-06-260398 to Miyaji. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 recites, "wherein said spacers consist of a plurality of spherical bodies having a diameter that is substantially the same as said predetermined gap, and said spacers are provided between said substrate and said mask member, so that each of said spacers contacts both said substrate and said mask member."

The Advisory Action asserts that paragraphs [0007] - [0008] of the computer English translation of Miyaji disclose an adhesive with a vertical thickness of about 0.01mm (10 $\mu$ m). The Advisory Action also asserts that paragraph [0011] of Miyaji discloses particles with a diameter of 10 $\mu$ m or smaller. Therefore, the Advisory Action concludes that Miyaji discloses spherical bodies that have a diameter that is substantially the same as the vertical thickness of the adhesive 3. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

It is respectfully submitted that the Advisory Action is improperly combining two different embodiments of Miyaji and inaccurately describing the features of Miyaji to allegedly disclose the features recited in amended independent claim 1.

Paragraph [0007] of the computer English translation of Miyaji discloses a mask substrate 2 and a holding frame 1 with a glue line A in Fig. 1(a). In Fig. 1(b), a substrate ring shaped SUS spacer 7 is inserted into the glue line A to form a new glue line A that comprises

the ring shaped SUS spacer 7 and two adhesive layers 3A and 3B above and below the ring shaped SUS spacer 7.

After reviewing a human English translation of Miyaji, it is determined that the 0.01mm (10 $\mu$ m) adhesive layer alleged by the Examiner in the Advisory Action actually only consists of the thickness of the total adhesive layers 3A and 3B above and below the ring shaped SUS spacer 7. In other words, the 0.01mm adhesive layer in paragraph [0007] of Miyaji merely consists of two 0.005mm adhesive layers 3A and 3B (0.01mm total). A 0.1mm tall ring shaped SUS spacer 7 is located between the adhesive layers 3A and 3B.

In contrast to the Advisory Action's assertion, the vertical distance between the mask substrate 2 and the holding frame 1 in Fig. 1(b) is 0.11mm, rather than the 0.01mm alleged in the Advisory Action. It is respectfully submitted that the Advisory Action incorrectly states the vertical distance (alleged predetermined gap) between the mask substrate 2 and the holding frame 1 in Fig. 1(b).

Therefore, Miyaji fails to disclose or suggest, "wherein said spacers consist of a plurality of spherical bodies having a diameter that is substantially the same as said predetermined gap, and said spacers are provided between said substrate and said mask member, so that each of said spacers contacts both said substrate and said mask member," as recited in amended independent claim 1. In contrast, the diameter of the ring shaped SUS spacer 7 in Fig. 1(b) of Miyaji is less than the vertical gap and contacts neither the mask substrate 2 or the holding frame 1.

Moreover, paragraph [0011] of Miyaji merely describes 10 $\mu$ m (0.01mm) diameter glass particles 8 mixed with adhesive 3, as shown in Fig. 2(b) of Miyaji. Therefore, even if the 10 $\mu$ m diameter glass particles 8 in Fig. 2(b) are combined with adhesive layers 3A, 3B and ring shaped SUS spacer 7 in Fig. 1(b) of Miyaji, the combination still fails to disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features of claim 1. Miyaji's 10 $\mu$ m (0.01mm) glass particles 8


diameter is less and not substantially the same as the  $110\mu\text{m}$  ( $0.11\text{mm}$ ) vertical distance between the mask substrate 2 and the holding frame 1 in Fig. 1(b). Furthermore, the  $10\mu\text{m}$  ( $0.01\text{mm}$ ) glass particles 8 cannot contact both the mask substrate 2 and the holding frame 1 because the  $10\mu\text{m}$  ( $0.01\text{mm}$ ) diameter of the glass particles 8 are much smaller than the  $110\mu\text{m}$  ( $0.11\text{mm}$ ) gap between the mask substrate 2 and the holding frame 1.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attachments:

Request For Continued Examination  
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: August 20, 2009

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